

LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, May 28.

Mr. Hyman, Conservative candidate, has been elected for South Dorset in place of the late Colonel Hambro, defeating the Gladstonian Liberal candidate by forty votes.

NEW YORK, May 28.

The Chilean insurgent steamer *Itata*, whilst loading munitions of war at San Diego in California, was boarded by the United States Marshal at that port who laid embargo upon the vessel; the Captain, however, confined the Marshal to the ship until she was safe outside the harbour and then landed him, at a distant point from the shore; the pilot was not allowed to leave the vessel. Several United States war ships have been dispatched in pursuit of the *Itata*.

CAPE TOWN, May 28.

A proclamation has been issued notifying the annexation by the British Government of the territory west of Bechuanaland, known as the Bastard's country. This step has been taken with the object of preventing the Boers from trekking through to Mafeking.

LONDON, May 28.

A Government decree, issued here to-day, orders the coinage of silver to the value of half a million sterling and also empowers the Bank of Portugal to pay its notes in silver for a period of three months. The object of these measures is to provide a remedy for the dearth of gold, which is stated to be due to the lock-up of capital.

LONDON, May 28.

Mr. Goschen gave notice in the House of Commons last night that he would move on Tuesday next for the production of a copy of the warrant which was issued for the arrest of Mr. De Coblenz, member for Belfast East.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28.

The statement that the Paris house of Rothschilds had refused to proceed with the issue of the new Russian conversion loan, owing to the renewed persecution of Jews, is now confirmed by the Russian papers, which state that the Russian Government rejected the demands of the Rothschilds for better treatment of the Jews in Russia.

The order for the expulsion of Jews from Moscow has been suspended for one or two years, to enable them to pay their debts to Russian subjects; it is considered probable that their expulsion will ultimately be abandoned.

The police have seized a secret printing press and a large quantity of revolutionary proclamations which were found in a house in the city, and a number of persons suspected of being implicated in the plot have been arrested.

LONDON, May 28.

A run was made on the banks of Lisbon yesterday and to-day, owing to the reported embarrasments of the Banco Lusitano.

LONDON, May 28.

The election of a member of Parliament for Harborough took place yesterday and resulted in the return of Mr. Logan, Gladstonian Liberal candidate, by a majority of 400 votes over Mr. Hardy, Conservative candidate.

Lord Knutsford, Sir John Gorst and many members of the House of Commons are suffering from influenza.

LONDON, May 28.

The death is announced of Madame Blavatsky, a resolution has been passed by the Newfoundland Legislature engaging the colony to adopt such laws as may be necessary to carry out the proposal made to the Imperial Government by their delegates. The Admiralty have decided to reinforce the North American Station with the new cruiser *Tartar* and a torpedo vessel.

CALCUTTA, May 28.

The Manipur Rajah and the Tongal Major have been captured; the latter is a decrepit old man, but he is responsible for more bloodshed during the independent Manipur rule than many an African savage king. The villagers are all returning to their homes and pursuing agricultural labours as if nothing had happened.

LONDON, May 28.

A Government decree has been issued granting a day of sixty days in meeting all obligations owing to the great run upon the Banks here, and the consequent heavy demands made by banks upon the Bank of Portugal; the decree has created widespread panic.

LONDON, May 28.

Mr. Gladstone was yesterday seized with a sudden fit of shivering and has since been confined to his room, which Sir Andrew Clarke has forbidden him to leave for several days.

BUENOS AIRES, May 28.

In a speech at the opening of Congress yesterday, Dr. Pellegrini, President of the Republic, favoured a reform in the currency of the state on a silver basis.

LONDON, May 28.

Lord Kautaford's Newfoundland Fisheries Bill has passed the Lords.

Mr. Gladstone is suffering from cold, accompanied by fever.

Mr. Cunningham-Graham addressed a Socialist meeting at 21, York Street, yesterday, and at the termination of his speech he was arrested by the police and conducted on board the steamer leaving for Dover.

The death is announced of Lady Wood, wife of General Sir Evelyn Wood.

Commenting on the disturbances in the northern river ports, the *N. C. Daily News* of the 20th inst. says:—

The very full accounts with which our correspondents have furnished us leave nothing untold of what occurred at the recent riot at Wuhu, and they confirm our hypothesis that the Secret Societies are at the bottom of these outbreaks.

It would be a great mistake to suppose that the attack on the Roman Catholic property was a mere local outbreak, motivated by suspicion of the objects of the Fathers in collecting young children for their orphanage. It was, we are assured, an incident in a very much more serious and wide-spread scheme; and the popular suspicion, as well as the readiness to plunder and pillage of the rowdies of whom Wuhu is a centre, were only tools used by the leaders of the Secret Societies, of which the famous *Kiao Hui* is the most important. It will, of course, have been noticed that the Wuhu outbreak was not an isolated affair. It was preceded by an outbreak at Yangchow, which was copied by the energy of the officials, and was followed by a threatened outbreak at Nanking, which was also stopped in time by similar means, the local authorities being stimulated to activity by the victory at Nanking. In fact, the whole Yangtze valley, from the junction of the Han with the Yangtze down to Chinkiang, is, we are assured, teeming with excitement.

It was stated some time ago that the death of the Viceroy Tsing was to be the signal for a succession of outbreaks at the river ports. The plotters were willing, in consideration of his popularity with all ranks and classes of Chinese, the magic of his name, and his services to the country, to be quiet during his lifetime; and he was there at Nanking, the very centre of the

disaffection which exists all over North-China, and especially in the Yangtze valley. The Chinese army and the troops at Nanking especially, are, we are told, full of sedition, and the secret societies number many officials and more experienced officials on their rolls, some being in high and responsible positions. It has been noticed, of course, that the mob at Wuhu were led by well-dressed men provided with flags, who took no part in the actual destruction of property, but confined themselves to directing the attack. These are not the men who believe that the French Fathers make medicine of children's eyes, or that Chinese Catholic nuns can make children deaf and dumb by patting their heads, though it suits them very well to make use of these stories to excite the "ignorant persons" of whom the Viceroy talks in his telegram to the German Acting Consul-General here. The "mob" are the tools of these men; they are led by the rowdies and thieves and discharged soldiers whom the secret society men have always at hand; but two-thirds or more of the rabble are merely sight-seers, brought to the scene by curiosity, and naturally ready to annex whatever they can when they see the plundering beginning.

It is a noticeable thing that in these riots no foreign life has been seriously in danger so far, because these outbreaks are not ultimately directed against foreigners. Their object is the overthrow of the government with foreigners, as a step towards the overthrow of the government and the dynasty. Men who know Hankow and the temper of the people of the three cities, Hankow, Hanayang, and Wuchang, were gravely apprehensive that there would be a serious riot when the Caravanserai was there; but Chang Chih-tung is an able and determined man, and he was on his mettle; and although he is not personally fond of foreigners—and very few high officials are,—he was determined that there should be no trouble. After a riot it is not the leaders that are punished, for they have often high connections that make it more difficult for the officials to leave them alone; it is some of the unfortunate common people, who took part in the riot without even knowing what their leaders were driving at.

"We dwell on this not, perhaps, because it needs this explanation, but because it shows how important it is that the river ports should not be unprotected as they have been of late. While there have been so far no foreign life sacrificed in these outbreaks, that may come, if the Secret Societies do not obtain their aim by destroying property. If, as we believe, these outbreaks are directed more against the government than against foreigners, it is a kindness to the government to keep foreign men-of-war on the Yangtze, and thus prevent these riots. The present government of China is not at all what we wish it to be, but we do not believe that we have anything to gain by another rebellion, and the secret societies effected their purpose, the result would probably be years of anarchy and civil war. If we send our gunboats up the river for the preservation of order, we are assisting the government and its officials; if we withdraw them, for fear of wounding somebody's susceptibilities, we are encouraging the government's worst enemies. Our orders have no right to leave the defence of the lives and property of foreigners to soldiers who are only too ready to turn their jackets inside out, and join the mob in looting, if there is loot to be had. H.E. Liu Kun, the present Viceroy at Nanking, was sent there on Tsing Kuo-chuan's death, after nine years' retirement, because the government thought it dangerous to send any but a Hunan man to look after the Hunan braves who compose the Nanking garrison; and this shows what Feking thinks of the spirit of some of its best troops. The proclamation of which we print a translation this morning shows that though the outbreak at Wuhu is stopped for the present, the Taoist has done nothing to overawe his leaders; and we seriously counsel Admiral Richards in the interest alike of the foreigners at the river ports and the Chinese government, to reinforce the very small British squadron in these waters.

NEWS AND GOSSIP.

Eiffel's tower "causes thunder-storms." Paris will build an underground railway. Electricity runs a Wurttemberg iron works. Japan will double the number of its warships. Vienna's palace will have 8,000 electric lights. Quinine is now successfully manufactured in Madras.

Emperor William will inspect the Alsace-Lorraine fortresses. Orange-growing in the Riviera is suffering from the building mania.

The French Government will consent to the burial of Prince Napoleon's body at Ajaccio. Welsh tip-players are obliged to shut down for a month on account of the McKinley bill.

Queen Victoria has presented a richly caparisoned Indian elephant to the Emperor of Morocco.

Emia Pasha has been honored by German botanists. A new plant has been called Emia Eminus.

The finances of Peru are greatly demoralized and disorganized. The public debt approximates \$250,000,000.

The Danish King's crown is worth \$135,000; the Queen's crown, \$17,500, and the sword of state, \$15,000.

Since 1880 over 700 applications for patents for electric accumulators have been made in England alone.

Sale on the street of the leading newspapers of St. Petersburg has been suspended by the Russian Government.

The much-talked-of Siberian Railway will soon be begun, the condemnation of land for the first section having taken place.

The Town Council of Brussels has resolved to do its own electric lighting, and not grant concessions to any company.

Canon Scott declares that in England there are no fewer than 70,000 girls engaged in "public houses and drinking bars."

Heidelberg is not to be made another Gibraltar, but will be fortified on a small scale, so as to be of some use to Germany in case of war.

A petition against the employment of young girls as barmaids has been presented to the King of Sweden. The petition has 10,000 signatures.

An exhibition will be held at Prague from May 15th to September 15th in commemoration of the first trades exhibition held on the Continent in 1791.

Out of the 30,000,000 of subjects over whom her Majesty now reigns as Queen of Great Britain, taken from round numbers, about 30,000 are said to be illiterate.

During the year 1890 the number of patients from the Department of St. Seine treated at the Pasteur Institute was ninety-five, and not one of these ninety-five died.

Gas is sold in Plymouth by a private company at 42 cents per 1,000 feet, in Leeds at 44 cents per 1,000 feet by the local authority. In both places a good profit is made.

The first installation of electric traction in France is soon to take place at Marseilles.

where a street railway company is about to introduce the overhead system.

Pietro, one of the army of beggars in Rome, has just died and left 350,000. To another Roman beggar, who will now be able to emigrate to America and set up a fruitstand.

The cheapest railway fare in the world will be that on the Central London Railway, on which there will be three workmen's trains daily, the fare for six miles being but 2 cents.

The telephone between Paris and London having been so successful, it is proposed to connect Brussels and London. For that purpose a cable will be laid between Ostend and Dover.

Fifty thousand francs have recently been given to the American Charity fund in Paris. The management of the fund last year devoted 170,000 to sending penniless American citizens home.

Louis Kossuth was unable, on account of sickness, to attend the funeral of his friend Prince Napoleon. Through General Turr, however, he sent flowers and a laurel wreath to be laid on his grave.

Since the blocking of the Scheldt river by ice last winter, and the closing of the port of Antwerp in consequence, the proposal to make Ostend a large seaport town is being seriously considered.

The caricature which is said to have given personal offence to King Humbert is one in which a monkey figures with a crown on his head, and features bearing a resemblance to those of the King.

The latest drop-a-penny-in-the-slot contrivance in Europe is attached to the Paris cable. The passenger puts his 10-centime piece into a slot and receives an insurance policy valuable for the time he remains in the cab.

According to Emperor Francis Joseph everything justifies the hope that peace will prevail in Europe for many years to come; and, therefore, Austria will devote herself to the development of industry and agriculture.

The Princess Clotilde has written to a Paris publisher stating that for the present, at least, "Plon-Plon's" political correspondence cannot be made public, as it contains matter compromising well-known persons still living.

The effect of the awful sight of the wreck of the *Utopia* at Gibraltar was most extraordinary. One man on the British war-ship, when the *Utopia* first sank, got so excited that he cried out: "Oh I can't stand this!" and jumped overboard.

A special committee of Bordeaux business men has been formed for the purpose of devising ways and means for a proposed ship railway across France to convey vessels from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean without having to go around Gibraltar.

Europe is much amused at the tour of a still-walker, who is proceeding for a wager from Paris to Moscow. At one place a policeman tried to stop him, but he took three gigantic strides and was beyond the reach of the official. His stilt is a yard long.

Engineering skill and boldness are among the wonders of this age. Plans are now before the London County Council for the construction of a new tunnel under the Thames river which shall be 23 feet in diameter inside with a 16-foot roadway and two footways. The cost of construction is estimated at \$400 per linear foot.

The Grand Duke Michael, who has, by marrying the woman he wanted, offended the Czar, is thirty years of age. He was sent to England in 1887, and since that time he has been a daughter of the Prince of Wales, and made a match. As soon as it was discovered in St. Petersburg that he had no such intention he fell into disfavor. The mother of his bride was a Russian woman, and, before morganatically marrying Duke Nicholas of Nassau secured a divorce from her first husband.

The great value of Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites in Wasting Diseases is shown by the accompanying statement from D. C. Freeman, Sydney, Aust.:-

"Having been a great sufferer from pulmonary attacks and gradually wasting away for the past two years, it affords me great pleasure to testify that the use of this medicine has given me great relief, and cheerfully recommend it to all suffering in a similar way to myself. In addition I would say that it is very pleasant to take." Any Chemist can supply it.—A. S. Watson & Co. (Ld.), agents in Hongkong and China.—[Adv.]

THE SHAMEN HOTEL AND LAND COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE OFFICE of the above named Company has been temporarily REMOVED to No. 5, PEDDER'S HILL, where all communications respecting the Company's business should be addressed.

By Order of the Board of Directors, R. FRASER-SMITH, Chairman.

HONGKONG, 4th May, 1891.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE SECOND CALL OF TWO POUNDS (£2) Sterling per Share is Payable at the temporary Offices of the Bank, No. 7, PRAYS, on or before 20th June, 1891.

By Order of the Board of Directors, WM. H. FORBES, Chairman.

HONGKONG, 21st May, 1891.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE.

THE LONG RANGE HANDICAP CUP and SPOONS will be competed for next SATURDAY, the 30th instant, commencing at 3.15 p.m. Ranges 800 and 900 yards. Usual conditions.

A Launch will leave the P. & O. Pier at 2.45 p.m. to convey competitors.

FRANK COLLINS, Hon. Secretary.

HONGKONG, 26th May, 1891.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

HONGKONG DERBY, 1892.

THE WEIGHTS for the above RACE will be weight for inches, not 10st. 10lb. as heretofore.

E. H. GORE-BOOTH, Clerk of the Course.

HONGKONG, 17th March, 1891.

SIEN TING, SURGEON DENTIST.

TERMS VERY MODERATE.

Consultation free.

HONGKONG, 18th March, 1891.

NOTICE.

GRIFFITH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOMS

1, Ice House Road are suitably lighted to produce all styles of Portraiture in any weather.

CABINETS from \$6 a dozen.

CARTES DE VISITE from \$3 a dozen.

LIFE SIZED BUSTS in Colour, or Black & White.

IVORY MINIATURES, &c. &c.

NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG and the Coast Ports are always ready.

HONGKONG, 24th September, 1891.

JAMES ANDERSON, Secretary.

HONGKONG, 28th May, 1891.

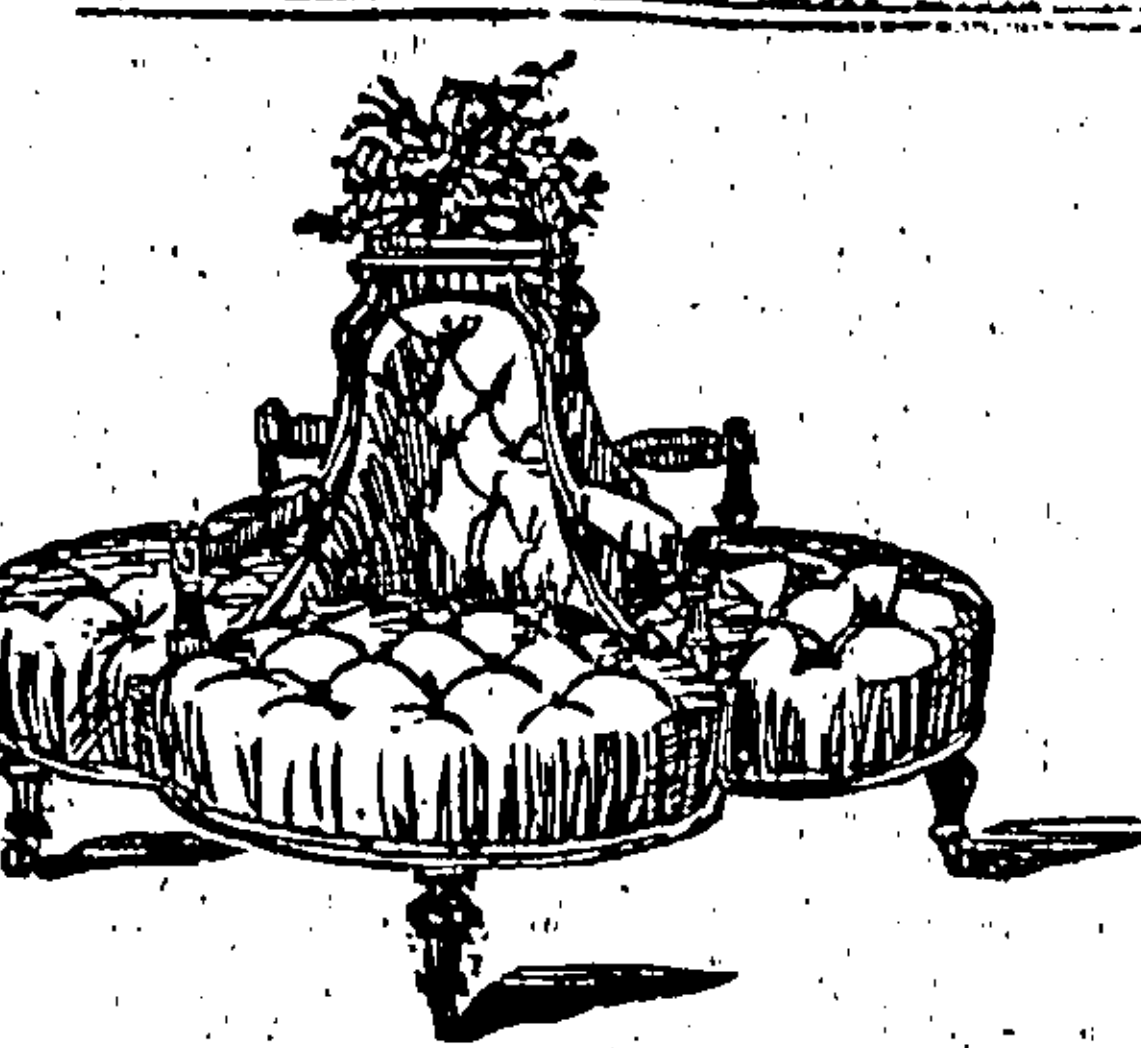
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FURNITURE.



HONGKONG TRADING CO., LD.

QUEEN'S ROAD AND DUNDRELL STREET.



HONGKONG TRADING CO., LD.

NOTICE.

UNPAID CALLS.

LABUK PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHAREHOLDERS and, or HOLDERS of SCRIP who have not yet paid the FINAL CALL, due 15th January, last are requested to pay the same to the Undersigned, together with interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from above date to date of payment, on or before 3rd June next.

Shares on which a Call or Calls are unpaid on 3rd June next will be dealt with in accordance with the Articles of Association.

TURNER & Co., General Managers.

HONGKONG, 28th May, 1891.

Intimations.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

A LIMITED number of Copies in Four Volumes of the ORDINANCES of the Colony complete to the end of 1887 can be obtained for Twenty-five Dollars the set on written application to the REFERENCE CLERK, Colonial Secretary's Office.

By Command, W. M. DEANE, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

HONGKONG, 23rd May, 1891.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given, that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at the HONGKONG DISPENSARY, TO-MORROW, the 29th instant, at 3 p.m., to confirm the Special Resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 14th inst.

T. H. TALBOT, Secretary.

HONGKONG, 20th May, 1891.

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HONGKONG, 24th September, 1891.

JAMES ANDERSON, Secretary.

HONGKONG, 28th May, 1891.

760

W. S. MARTEN,

ARTISTIC DECORATOR,

2, DUDELL STREET, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 6th April, 1890.

FOR SALE.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY, Published at the Office of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, is the best and most complete work of the kind ever published in the FAR EAST. The Directory contains all the latest and most reliable information concerning China, Japan and all the other Countries in the East.

PRICE.....\$3.00

To be obtained from all Booksellers in China and Japan.

Hongkong, 23rd March, 1891.

Dr. Knorr's

ANTIPYRINE.

(Dose for Adults 15 to 25 grains troy.)

IS the most approved and most efficacious remedy in cases of HEADACHE, MIGRAINE, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, FEVER, TYPHUS, ERYSIPELAS, HOOPING-COUGH, and many other complaints. It is also the very best Antipyretic. Highly recommended by the medical Faculty. To be

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

N^o. 2853

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

BIRTHS.

At No. 7, Saunders' Compound, Shanghai, on the 21st May, the wife of THOMAS M. WILSON, of a son.
At Woodlands Villa East, Hongkong, on the 22nd May, the wife of C. H. ROGGE, of a daughter.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1891.

HONGKONG JUSTICE.

Justice is not stone-blind in Hongkong; the old lady is only cock-eyed. But this unfortunate obliquity of vision is much to be regretted, as it presses very hardly on innocent people who, through no fault of their own, get entangled in the meshes of the law, and become victims to official harpies and unsuppliable legal cormorants. "I must say, your Worship, that more unjustifiable proceedings than those in connection with this case I have never heard of; and I am surprised that any Attorney-General or Crown Officer should have taken such action as has been shown in this matter." Such was the indignant expression of opinion given utterance to by Mr. CRAWLEY EWERS, solicitor for the defendant, when the trumped-up criminal charge brought against Mr. CHAN U FAI for making a false declaration as to the ownership of the new Canton river steamer *Tai-on*, hopelessly collapsed when heard before Mr. A. G. WISE at the Police Court on the 20th inst. We entirely agree with Mr. EWERS and submit that it is the duty of the Hongkong Government to order a thorough investigation in what looks remarkably like making a tool of the law and playing with justice. There was not a tithe of evidence to warrant the prosecution, and the Magistrate very properly discharged the defendant, remarking that the case had entirely broken down. His Worship would have been justified in going much further and saying a great deal more, but for reasons best known to himself he preserved a discreet silence. That, however, is no reason why we should allow this most scandalous persecution to pass into oblivion unnoticed, and we don't intend to.

Who instigated the criminal prosecution of Mr. CHAN U FAI, a very old Hongkong resident, who for a considerable time held a position as teacher in the Government Central School and is now a leading and influential member of the Chinese mercantile community? Was it Mr. HASTINGS, the Acting Harbour-master? If so, what were the alleged facts that came to that officer's knowledge which suggested the most improper interview on April 23rd? Who provided Mr. HASTINGS with those facts? This latter question ought to have been asked in cross-examination, but Mr. EWERS would appear to have overlooked its importance.

Was it the Registrar-General, and if so, why? What business was it of his? The Registrar-General was present at the interview in the Attorney-General's office on April 23rd, and interpreted the statement made by Mr. CHAN U FAI. Why should the Registrar-General have been present on such an occasion? He is not the Attorney-General's interpreter, and as a matter of fact Mr. CHAN U FAI speaks English almost as fluently as Mr. STEWART LOCKHART. The Registrar-General's appearance in a little comedy that was evidently meant to end tragically for the managing owner of the steamship *Tai-on*, appears inexplicable from an ordinary point of view, and is certainly highly suggestive of what a dangerous element exists in this colony in the apparently department presided over by an apparently thoroughly irresponsible officer. It appears to us that the Registrar-General's department, as at present constituted, is a scandalous anomaly, utterly out of keeping with constitutional government and which ought to be summarily abolished without delay. This ultra-bureaucratic hot-bed of mischief has caused more vexatious trouble with Chinese residents than is generally recognised, and as its existence serves no useful purpose beyond registering the births, deaths and marriages—a work which a couple of junior clerks would find no difficulty in satisfactorily carrying out—advocates of financial reform, as regards the exorbitant cost of our local administration, have here an opportunity of at once effecting a considerable economy and of getting rid of an office that is a standing menace to public freedom. One of the unofficial members should ask in Council what share the Registrar-General had in this most suspicious prosecution of the Chinese owners of the *Tai-on*.

What grounds had the Attorney-General for advising the arraignment at the Police Court on a criminal charge of Mr. CHAN U FAI? We must assume that Mr. W. M. GOODMAN knows something about the law and has some capacity for estimating the value of evidence; yet in this case it is as clear as day, judging from the published reports of the trial, that there was absolutely no evidence to justify such a prosecution. The Acting Crown Solicitor, who conducted the prosecution, was presumably acting under the orders of his chief, and he has our sympathy; but it would have been much better had he delayed appearing and as in the notorious charge of outrage on a child against a member of the Public Works Department last September, allowed an ordinary police officer to act as public prosecutor and bear the brunt of allowing the case to collapse.

And who will defray the costs of this iniquitous prosecution? Is it fair that Mr. CHAN U FAI, and the other owners of the *Tai-on*, should be compelled to pay for the ignorant and unpardonable bungling of lavishly paid Government officials, who apparently have yet to learn the rudiments of their own business? We are reluctantly compelled to admit our inability to recognise any justifiable grounds for placing these respectable Chinese merchants in the criminal dock, and as the question at issue is one of great public importance, it will be well if Mr. CHAN U FAI and his partner can see their way to compelling reparation by process of law. By so doing they will probably discover the source and secret of the gross and glaring injustice to which, under the aegis of the law of Hongkong, they have been subjected.

THE CZAREWITCH.

This atrocious attempt on the life of the CZAREWITCH by a native of Japan, while being a grievous occurrence from whatever point it is viewed, also contains mysterious elements requiring most careful elucidation. However much people may disagree with autocratic and despotic government, we are bound to remember that the young Prince represented that great European Power which has proved itself so exceptionally considerate to the Land of the Rising Sun in its efforts of regeneration. His Imperial Highness had been received with demonstrations of respect and good-will by all classes that were remarkable even in that land of generous hospitality, when all of a sudden—in the vicinity of its most sacred centre, where the influence of the "Venerable" reigns supreme, and in a locality usually noted for its good order and the warmth of its welcome to foreigners—a dastardly blow is delivered to the most distinguished and honored national guest who has yet visited that country. If we except the late General GRANT. Naturally enough the wave of indignation at the foul deed at this moment passing over Japan is extreme to a degree, but it is for those who have experience of that nation and the character of its people, more especially those at a distance, who are uninfluenced by the excitement of the event, to stand aside and endeavour to penetrate the mystery by carefully weighing every possible motive which could contribute towards bringing about a catastrophe so injurious to the nation's progress. So far as we can gather from the accounts of the affair which have yet reached us, the Press in Japan have concluded that it was a simple act of madness or fanaticism on the part of the policeman. This, however, in our opinion, remains to be substantiated, for if there be one fact more patent than another it is that in every similar deed of this nature which has happened in modern times in Japan, the motive for the act has been clearly discernible.

Upon a May morning some thirteen years ago the noblest of the noble amongst the band of patriots of young Japan—OKUMA—was assassinated, amidst a shower of may-blossoms thrown up as a signal, almost within sight of the Mikado's palace, the misguided youths who perpetrated the bloody deed walking calmly up to the palace gate and delivering their swords, claiming a death penalty for having, in their lamentable ignorance, killed a great statesman whom they considered a pro-foreigner advocate and a traitor to his country. For a similar reason IWAKURA narrowly escaped with his life the assassins' swords, but bore the marks of the foul deed to his untimely end. Most, the Minister of Education, who started at the outset in the pro-foreigner direction of actually advocating the anglicizing of the Japanese language, also met an untimely death at the assassins' hand owing to the same policy. OKUMA, the great liberal leader and Prime Minister whose lustre as a patriot and statesman will shine second only to that of OXLEY in the history of the regeneration of Dai Nippon, nearly lost his life and actually lost a limb only eighteen months ago for what was considered his pro-foreigner proclivities in connection with Treaty revision; and in fact we know not of a single instance in the modern history of Japan in which the motives influencing these crimes were not distinguishable or even apparent on the face of them, either by the confession of the culprits at their trials, or by other conclusive evidence. Therefore we may be excused in endeavouring to trace in hidden sources the motive inspiring this latest atrocious deed.

The CZAREWITCH represented a Power which of all European Powers has shown itself the most friendly disposed towards Japan, and this was proved by the recent act of the Czar in accepting the Japanese principle of Treaty revision without reserve. His Imperial Highness also represented a friendly neighboring Power whose commercial relations with Japan are of the highest importance to the nation. All this was known and fully appreciated by the country; as the native Press testifies. Besides, he was the distinguished and honored guest of the Emperor as well as of the nation. Bearing in mind these facts, how did it come to pass that, almost in the most sacred centre of Japan, where obedience and order are the rule, this innocent youth, representing influences fraught with so much benefit and consequences to the country, should have been subjected to such a gross violation of the very characteristics for which the Japanese of all peoples have been so greatly distinguished? Well, may Japan exclaim "my worst enemy might have spared me this!" but we are led by the current of our thoughts to weigh what

possible influences could have inspired a deed so dastardly and injurious to Japan. In making a searching inquiry into probabilities, are we wrong in surmising that possibly Chinese influence and Chinese sympathy may be found at the bottom of an act so altogether at variance with the Japanese character? Many things point in this direction—ancient rivalry, recent acts of a similar nature perpetrated in Korea to the detriment of Japan, jealousy of that country's growing influence with Russia, and a consistent but well disguised antipathy to Japan and the Japanese, envy at their progressive march, their superior navy, and numerous other points which can be readily called to mind. The fact of the CZAREWITCH devoting so much time to Japan was another element of jealousy, and what more easy way of embarrassing her despised enemy than arranging such a contempt? No one acquainted with China's history and who knows the national character will deny that Chinese officialdom is fully capable of such dastardly acts—in fact, it is notorious that outrages even more atrocious and dastardly have been instigated by some of the most prominent of China's living statesmen. Too cowardly to inspire such an act themselves in China, the opportunity for the discomfiture of her deadly enemy may have proved too great to be lost sight of. At all events, we trust that while the would-be murderer lives every effort will be made to discover the aiders and abettors in this great crime, and if it should be brought home to roost on Chinese shoulders, then there is some hope for the regeneration of China and the cleansing of the Augean stables at Peking, Tientsin, Canton and other places.

THE PORT CHARGES IN HONGKONG.

The following letter has been forwarded to us for publication by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce:—
SIR, The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce direct me to acknowledge receipt of the Acting Colonial Secretary's despatch No. 707 of 7th May, in which was enclosed a minute from His Excellency the Governor of 7th May on a letter addressed by the Chamber on the 1st May, to the Colonial Secretary, which called the attention of the Government to certain statements made in an undelivered but published speech of His Excellency which appeared in the newspapers of this Colony on the 30th April. His Excellency appears not to be clear as to the object of the Chamber's letter of 1st May. That letter my Committee consider plainly indicated its object. His Excellency made certain statements in that speech, undelivered orally, which the Chamber considered were not in accordance with facts. If these statements had been allowed to pass unchallenged, it would have been reasonably assumed that they were unassailable because uncontroverted, and these misleading statements coming from such a source would have had a most injurious effect in determining the issues that His Excellency sought to establish in his printed speech. That the doubt of the correctness of the Governor's statements was corrected with my Committee should immediately be set at rest, both for the good of the public and also for the credit of the Chamber and the Chamber's letter, which was intended to be the only course that could be taken, even though it might trench upon His Excellency's leisure, which was limited owing to his hurried departure and ill health, which the Chamber regrets should have become so confirmed at this juncture as to necessitate his return to Europe. But the sooner error is dispelled the better. Taking His Excellency's paragraphs in their order:—
"No, I assume that my Committee in their letter of 1st May implied that vessels of foreign construction ought not to be taxed at all, but that junks should not escape taxation. By no process of reasoning" can any portion of the Chamber's letter be contorted to bear such an interpretation. It should be clearly remembered that the statement of His Excellency to which this Chamber took exception was, that the cost of the Harbour Master's Establishment, Harbour Leucis, Harbour Light, and the Observatory, involving an aggregate expenditure of some \$70,000 per annum, was "principally maintained out of the ordinary taxation of the Colony." Here no issue was raised by His Excellency as to the taxation of European and Chinese built vessels. The Chamber's letter was confined to proving that the ordinary taxation of the Colony was not used for the purposes of conducting Government establishments for the regulation of shipping as stated by His Excellency, but that, on the contrary, shipping not only paid its own way but added to the general revenues of the Colony. The addition to the revenue of the Harbour Master's Department from the collections derived from junks in 1890 was \$22,307. These native craft occupy the attention of the officials of that Department in many ways and necessitate the upkeep of five different establishments, besides Victoria, in the Island, for their almost exclusive use. Vessels of European construction do not require these five establishments. The Harbour Master's establishment is clearly entitled to be credited with all the revenue it collects in connection with the conduct of its special work. An implication seems to lie, in His Excellency's minute, that junks pay more than they should do in comparison with other vessels. Are not the facts as follows? For this payment of \$22,307 per annum in 1890 about 3,500,000 tons of junks escaped the payment of light dues, as stated by His Excellency. Further, junks carried in 1890 233,273 native passengers without interference of any kind from, or payments to, the Harbour Master's Department. Junks also carried crews in and out numbering 587,838 men which also did not come under the revenue cognizance of the Harbour Master's Department. So that for the payment of \$22,307 per annum or 64 cents per ton, junks obtained these particular privileges free and many others connected with their being king, while vessels of European construction were specially taxed for each item. A reference to the receipts of the Harbour Master's Department for 1890 will show these several items, paid by European constructed vessels, to be as follows:—

Emigration brokers..... \$1,000.00
Shipping seamen (21,822 men shipped and discharged)..... 10,850.00
Examination of masters..... 2,135.00
Survey of steamers..... 9,060.87
Registry fees..... 875.00
Medical fees—emigration..... 1,000.00

License steam launches..... 412.50
Survey certificates steam launches..... 995.00
Light dues collected in 1890, which include the extra levy for the Gap Rock for 9 months only..... 72,028.33

which was contributed by 9,000,000 tons of shipping of European construction, or say 1,725 cents per ton against 3,500,000 tons junk traffic which contributed 1,024 pence only.
His Excellency's minute states:—"If it be urged that junks pay no light dues, my reply is that relating to tonnage, trading junks pay far more than European vessels, even including the special Gap Rock tax about to be remitted. This statement is not borne out by the figures at the disposal of my Committee, as is clearly shown above. Native craft only pays about one half of what European do, though doubtless some statement exists on which His Excellency hazarded these remarks."
Paragraph 3 points out that my Committee erroneously included in Harbour Master's Revenue the amount received for the 12 months 1890 for Registry of boats..... \$4,631.50
Registry cargo boats..... 6,272.00
Cargo boats' certificates..... 1,192.50

because this branch of the service was conducted by the Registrar-General's Department and therefore the income was applicable to that establishment. The Chamber's error was natural, for it appears anomalous that work so intimately connected with the Harbour Department should be done by a branch of the service so unfitted, apparently, to conduct the operations required of it. The additional work, if thrown on the Harbour Master's Department, to grant these three forms of certificates, could doubtless be performed without further aid of any kind, or at the most trifling assistance only would be needed. If that branch, it appears the Registrar-General's establishment for \$89,302 the Colony \$90,372.9, while the receipts for these three certificates yielded that department \$12,095.00 for work that is intimately allied to shipping and probably could be efficiently performed by tidying clerical assistance under the supervision of the Harbour Master's Department. In dealing with the question of other Government expenditure for the services of shipping, which is not classified specifically under that head, His Excellency is pleased to mention the cost of water taken by ships from the water works of the colony. Some apprehension of the actual facts is apparent in this statement. Before the completion of the Tyam works no water was taken from the Government Reservoirs for the use of shipping. The various purposes of water supplied vessels from their own private mains and other systems of collection, charging shipping for such water. During the recent drought, when these private sources dried up, Government permitted the owners of water boats to draw supplies from the Tyam reservoir, for which they charged these conveyors of water 20 cents per 1,000 gallons. The rate was fixed by the Government, so it is presumable the revenues of the colony were simply protected when making the arrangement. Subsequently when the water famine became acute this privilege accorded to water boat owners was withdrawn. It is evident therefore that shipping does pay for all water taken from Government water works.

It is difficult and perhaps unprofitable to follow His Excellency in the minute analysis he suggests with regard to the various services performed by almost every public Department to shipping. Still the two minor incidents he mentions are capable of assessment. The cargo boat strike is well within the memory of my Committee. It arose from injudicious action on the part of the Government. His Excellency called to his aid, one afternoon, many members of the community, amongst them some of my Committee, to obtain their views on the situation. His Excellency adopted the suggestions that were then tendered and the following morning the strike had disappeared. The routine work incurred by "Harbour question" and a considerable number of "harbour papers" may perhaps be classified, for want of fuller statistics, amongst those minor duties that go to complement the official day's work. The Police statistics of crime show that for the 12 months of 1890 the inhabitants of all nationalities dealt with numbered 150, which doubtless include many that were not sailors.

It would not be unfair to set off against these various services rendered shipping, by almost every public department, the minor incidents derived from the following items which arise from and are incidental to our shipping; in 1890 they yielded:—
Bill of Lading stamps..... \$21,668.40
Charter stamps..... 3,302.80
Do, copy stamps..... 902.00
Marine Insurance Policy stamps, say 500.00

The amount collected for stamps on Insurance policies in 1890 was \$7,661.80, but therein is included both Fire and Marine, which it appears incorrect to separate, but the Committee estimate that one-third would be a fair proportion to place to revenue derived from Fire policies. It is worthy of note that vessels of Chinese construction did not contribute one cent towards this large addition of \$30,873.20 to the general revenue of the colony. It is not profitable to seek to determine the cost of each infinitesimal service that devolves upon the Government in connection with the conduct of the administration of public business. But a quantitative analysis is forced upon my Committee by the minute of His Excellency. The fact, however, remains, as stated in the Chamber's letter of the 1st May, that the contributions to the revenue of the colony from shipping not only suffice to recoup all Government expenditure for the establishments connected with the supervision of that branch of the Colony's trade, but a large surplus goes therefrom to general revenue. His Excellency has not attempted to controvert the figures produced by my Committee, but has contented himself by endeavouring to separate the incidence of taxation as applied to vessels of European and native construction. The various suggestions in the minute my Committee consider they have fully disposed of in their present remarks, while the application of the income derived from the certificates of registry for cargo boats can be more fairly claimed as belonging to the Harbour Master's Department than the Registrar-General's.

His Excellency has been pleased to make allusion in the concluding sentences of his minute to some points which appear to call for reply. The comparison between the burden of taxation on shipping in this Colony and Singapore opens a wide field for discussion; the situation and conditions of the two places are so dissimilar that it is hardly possible to institute a comparison that would be of value if attempted. One reason, confined for the larger part to the ordinary light dues levied in the Colony, is

perhaps owing to the greater annual tonnage of shipping on which the tax is charged compared with that which passes through Singapore. And the cost of upkeep of their light-houses may be considerably greater than ours. However this may be, my Committee consider it more prudent not to institute comparisons suggestive of levelling up to the taxation of Singapore.

His Excellency further directs attention to the tonnage dues levied at the ports of China, which in comparison with the rates charged in Hongkong it is upon large vessels, he states, "with a weight of 10 to 20 times greater than this Colony's levy." My Committee consider sufficient reflection was not given by His Excellency's advisers to the subject when this statement was permitted to be published. The Imperial Government of China's charge for tonnage dues is 62 Mexican cents per ton; the Colony's levy for light dues is 21 Mexican cents per ton. Superficially His Excellency's statement is borne out. Viewed more closely it will be found that the Chinese tonnage dues are only payable once every four months and during that period vessels can enter, as often as suits, any or all of the 21 Treaty ports of China, giving a range of about 3,144 miles of sea and river traffic. Along this distance the land is lighted in a manner that commands the admiration of the mariner, while all the various duties of the harbours in the 21 Treaty ports are conducted without additional charge to shipping. Compare this with the paltry similar service of this Colony which presents three light-houses, or including the Gap Rock four and its stretch of a few miles of coast; for which the charge of 21 cents per ton has to be paid each time that the European constructed vessel enters the waters of the Colony. Instead of the Colony's tax, or an increase thereof, being inappreciable, it is not so. And further, my Committee would earnestly remind His Excellency that the "negligible quantity" of the risk of transfer from the Colony of its present lighting centre is not to be so lightly eliminated as His Excellency appears to think. The Colony may retain the "centre" but the Government's power to levy additional taxation on shipping which in the opinion of the Committee would be unwise for general revenue purposes may depart. Hongkong lies within an almost measurable distance of China; a few minutes would permit the transfer of vessels from the colony's to China's waters. Vessels bound for the various ports of China, touching at Hongkong, could avoid the colony's waters entirely and yet might obtain all present advantages, suffer. There can be no doubt that China with its Imperial Maritime Customs, and the fact of the colony's trade to its shores. It is highly dangerous to deem these risks "negligible quantities" when dealing with interests of such vast concern to this colony's welfare.

This Chamber has for many years urged the reduction of the charge for light dues to a point that shall simply suffice for the expenditure necessary for the maintenance of the lights; that levied upon shipping under the guise of light dues; and latterly, in sympathy with the movement that is agitating most civilised countries, the Chamber has advocated their total abolition. To tax, for the payment of special services—the expenditure for which can be distinctly ascertained—in excess of what they cost, is an economic mistake, in addition to being inequitable. The total abolition of the dues would be a matter of high policy for this Colony and burdens that it might be necessary to impose on the inhabitants for general revenue purposes. The trade of this Colony is almost solely shipping. The possibility of the island becoming a manufacturing centre depends upon shipping. A daily intercourse with all parts of the world for the exchange of products is a first necessity to a manufacturing community. Every vessel that enters this harbour adds, inasmuch as it may be, to each inhabitant's benefit, in the shape of work for certain classes, in direct money payment to others. These gains far outweigh the extra outposts that ratepayers might have to bear if light dues were abolished. The present levy of dues is direct, it is simple, and so commends itself to the Government and some of the community, who do not grasp the fact that our endeavour should be by every means in our power to attract, may almost compel, shipping to enter our port. Consider the inducement to shipping, there is nothing to pay in the port of Hongkong. Our position, as it were, is that of a shopkeeper presenting a certain commodity for sale. We, the advantage of the port. Is it prudent to charge an entrance fee to our customers, or is it wiser to consider that our taxes would be triflingly increased by granting such facilities when it is well known that the concession will return us considerably more than it costs? There is hardly a branch of commerce or an inhabitant, however situated, that would not derive benefit from the attraction of additional tonnage to the Colony's waters.

In conclusion, my Committee desire me to express regret at the tone of His Excellency's minute. The Chamber has always accepted the undoubted position of advisers to the Government on all matters affecting the commerce of the Colony. No feelings of personality or partisanship have influenced the Committee at any time in the various communications tendered to the Government, which have hitherto been of the most distinctly courteous and pleasant nature. But His Excellency's minute would seem rather to depart from the mutually good feeling that previously existed.

Sir, I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient servant,
F. HENDERSON,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 22nd May, 1891.
The Honorable W. M. Deane, M.A., C.M.G.,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

ADMIRAL RICHARDS is paying Peking a visit, leaving Shanghai for Taku in the *Albatross* yesterday week.

THE Governor-General of Canton has raised some troops which are being daily drilled according to foreign tactics, says the *Hu-pao*.

SHARK MARKET settlements, notwithstanding spangled sports to make ends meet, have only been partially and temporarily adjusted. As Mr. Samuel Weller, senior, sagely observed, we will "investigate."

THE adjourned inquiry into the circumstances attending the outbreak of fire on the premises Nos. 321 and 333, Queens Road Central, a fortnight ago, was resumed on the 26th inst. by Mr. WISE, Acting Coroner, at the Police Court. There being no further evidence to produce the inquiry was closed and the witnesses released.

We hear that the Europeans residing in Chow-chow-foo, were somewhat frightened a few days ago owing to disturbances amongst the natives. Particulars not yet known.

ON Monday at the Peak Hospital, there died Capt. W. S. Brazier, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service, at the early age of 30. The deceased was a son of the well-known Professor Brazier, of Aberdeen University, and was a popular and highly promising officer, who had a brilliant career before him.

A CORRESPONDENT writes of the *N. C. Daily News* from Chefoo, under date the 15th inst., that telegraphic news had been received there of the safety of the Chinese gun-vessel *Taiwan*, but no details were to hand concerning her whereabouts during the last ten days or the nature of the mishap—if any—that had befallen her.

ON the afternoon of the 25th inst. the Seamen's Temperance Society held their usual picnic, when a visit was paid to the silver mines on the Island of Tam-chow. The *Day Spring* and another launch conveyed the merry party to the island upon which sports of various kinds were indulged in, and a most pleasant outing was enjoyed.

CONSEQUENT upon the retirement of Acting Chief Inspector Cradock, there is another general move in the Hongkong Police Force. Inspector Matheson, at present in charge of the Water Police, will now take the post of Acting Chief Inspector, and will be succeeded in the Water Police by Inspector Corcoran, from Shanghai. Inspector Butlin being removed to the latter district.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—
Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Limited..... \$25
A Friend..... 10
A. da Silva, Esq..... 10
Messrs. Heurmann and Herbs..... 5
Mrs. J. E. Tucker..... 5
Lau Ying, Esq..... 2

THE *Hu-pao* says:—The Chinese gentry and merchants are proposing to start a steam ferry Company between Hongkong and Canton. The capital is to be \$100,000, raised by shares. Several ferry-boats suitable for the purpose will be purchased or built. The China Merchants' Office in Canton will be the Company's temporary head-office, and there is to be a branch office in Hongkong. The name of the company is the Hongkong and Canton Steam Ferry-boat Company, Limited.

We have been favored with good news from Panjoni. Ten tons of stuff milled the other week yielded 448 ounces of refined bullion. And Mr. Blamey writes that "over seven pounds of gold were got in a few hours by four men only, working at Gubau." When it is authoritatively announced that the Panjoni Co. has about 250 ounces of gold in stock and under order for shipment, the long-suffering shareholders may reasonably hope for the silver lining of the cloud that has been hanging over them for so long.

THE *Hyogo News* of the 18th inst. publishes additional particulars of the loss of the steamer *Albatross*, of the Mogul Line, which went ashore at Matsushima, a small island about 200 miles from Kobe in the Inland Sea. She is said to be lying at such an angle that it is impossible for any one to stand on her decks, or for the extent of her injuries to be ascertained. She left Kobe on the 15th, in charge of an unlicensed pilot named W. Houghton, bound for New York. She has been engaged in the Japan trade for several years, and was a well-found vessel. The island she is wrecked on is said to be very precipitous, with about 100 yards of sandy beach.

BROCHER on Panjoni:—"You will be pleased to know that everything is progressing so satisfactorily but (sic) for the lack of water which prevents milling; otherwise the output of gold and quartz from both falls mine and your prospecting workings at Gubau is going a considerable way towards affording the material for returns against working expenses." It is very kind of Brocher to tell us all this, but if that no doubt excellent person would mind his own business it would be very much more to the purpose. There has already been too much humbug and gasbag twaddle in the history of the Panjoni Company.

DESCENDANTS of Lavater, and students of such books as "Sartor Resartus" should find ample scope for the exercise of their talents in the streets of Hongkong at the present time. It has always been an acknowledged fact that our community contains some of the most extraordinary specimens of humanity that are to be found on this terrestrial sphere, but recently it has been considerably augmented by the influx of a crowd of sightseers for whose arrival here that floating palace the *Empress of Japan* is responsible. These good folk crowd the highways and the gutters of Hongkong, and the interest that they evince in local lions is only equalled by the curiosity that they themselves excite in the native breast. Their charter apparently gives them extraordinary privileges in the line of dress; many stroll round in fearful and wonderful caricatures on 19th century apparel, and not a few without even a *palatino*, which somewhat necessary garment carried under the arm, should there be one to spare, if not around the waist. Residents who take an interest in natural history should not walk abroad just now without a gun—the opportunities are too good to be missed.

THERE was a scene of great excitement in the Supreme Court at Singapore, a few days ago. A policeman named Gags Singh, with a woman Sama, was charged with abducting a girl from her mother's house. The prisoner had paid \$100 to the mother of the girl to get her as his wife and it was alleged that she had helped him in the abduction. A large number of the old convicts of Singapore people transported to the Straits in the old East Indian days, the *orange Sindians* of the Malays were present in the Court. The mother of the girl herself said that she had come there forty years ago as a convict, and was a murderer. The jury had some difficulty in coming to an agreement and after a quarter of an hour returned with a unanimous verdict of not guilty against the woman, but could not agree about man. After some questions had been answered, they retired again, and eventually found the man guilty of abduction by a majority, saying that he was driven to do it because the mother wanted to keep his money. The judge agreed and sentenced him to one day's imprisonment. The rest that came from the crowded Court as the prisoner was released was something to be remembered.

THE U. S. gunboat *Palos* arrived in harbour on the 22nd inst. from Canton.

The British gunboat *Plover* arrived from Japan on the 20th inst., and the *Redpole* left for Amoy.

A POOLISH correspondent wants to know what we think of the Colonial Treasurer of Hongkong, Mr. Mitchell-Innes. Judgment reserved.

An American paper says the shade in the *sumsum* *tyum* of all fish. That is what we say about the *Sam-H*, and as the delicately flavored product of the Canton river is actually the shade, peace and harmony prevail.

Mr. C. J. GALLOWAY takes temporary management of the Singapore branch of the New Oriental Bank *via* Mr. C. W. Playfair, appointed chief manager of the National Bank of China in Hongkong.

A LOT of drain-layers were blasting a rocky bit of road at West Point, on the 20th inst., when a pebble of about 18 lbs. weight struck hands with the ribs of one of the gang. He might have deserved it, but—*it mortals, etc.*

THE taking of the census on the 21st inst. was a "frost," the papers being refused in many cases, in many others not returned, whilst in not a few instances they were wholly unreliable. The "condition as to marriage" column broke up many of our respected residents.

SAYS THE *Pingang Gazette*:—"Rumour has it that a well known lawyer in Singapore has absconded from that place, and taken with him about \$40,000 belonging to his clients." This is confirmed by *diva's* advice just received, giving details which will be made public in due course.

On the morning of the 13th inst. Messrs. MacKenzie & Co.'s comptroller's office, at Shanghai, was broken into and \$15,000 cash stolen from the comptroller's money box. The thief actually took \$20,000 cash, but being unable to carry so much away, he dropped 5,000 cash outside the room. He had bitten off more than he could chew.

THE share-brokers and dead-brokers of the colony are "down" on the Hon. J. J. Kewick; their vituperations against the author of the new *Share Dealing Ordinance*, if the only could hear them, would make the hair of the Autocrat of East Point stand on end. But we don't quite see it; Mr. Kewick is entitled to a fair show, and we mean to give him it.

CHIEF JUSTICE O'MALLEY of the Straits Settlements has been disfiguring himself at the recent Penang Assizes. First of all he discarded his scarlet robes in favor of black; then he formulated a new oath for pagan witnesses, and finally he raked together a jury who found a prisoner guilty before hearing the defence. But then isn't anything new with juries in this part of the world?

WHILE the C. P. steamer *Batavia* was on her way down from Shanghai to this port on her last trip she collided with, and capsized, a junk which had three men on board, one of whom was drowned. It is said he was the look-out man, and noticing the steamer approaching, he stood up and attempted to push her off with a view to prevent the junk from damage, but unfortunately he was knocked over-board; the other two men however, were rescued.

THE Petition that the Sharebrokers' Association have addressed to the Legislative Council in opposition to the Hon. J. J. Kewick's Bill for making share-gambling illegal is printed in another column. It is about the finest example of special pleading for a vested interest that it has been our fortune to come across for a long time, as we propose to show in a rather more lengthy historical review of the Rialto than we have time or space for to-day (22nd).

THE *Shanghai Mercury* of the 16th inst. says:—"We learn upon undoubted authority that our morning contemporary, who has been posing as the champion of British interests in China, at present partly under German control, that certain financiers of that country have secured a large interest in the *N. C. Daily News*, and will consequently in the future have a great deal to say about its management. This fact will explain the line our contemporary has taken on many matters of late."

A NAVAL Court Martial was held on the 22nd inst. on board H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel* on Lieut. P. J. Hodges, of H.M.S. *Hyacinth*, who was charged with having been drunk at sea on the 8th inst. The Court was composed of the following officers:—Captain Port, President; Commr. Ferris, Commr. Oaslow, Commr. Goodrich, Lieut. and Commr. Baker, and Mr. G. W. Whillier, Secretary to the Commodore, Judge Advocate. The prisoner pleaded guilty. The sentence of the Court was that of dismissal from the Service.

As we mentioned on Tuesday, among the business to be transacted at the Council meeting to-morrow (22nd inst.) will be the first reading of a Bill entitled "The Forts Protection Ordinance." This should fill a long-felt want. It has been a scandal for years, the way our forts are left out at night, with valuable guns in them—some of them, that is to say—open to the depredations of Rums, Dabonny, and other inimical Powers. This Bill for the establishment of a policeman at the front entrance should do much to cool down this ridiculous indignation about the trifling alteration in the Military Contribution.

THE Tientsin correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes on May 13th:—"On Monday we had a most interesting phenomenon, for there was only two feet of water on the Taku Bar at high tide. The lowest remembered is 5 feet 8 inches. The Chinese I am told have no record of the tide ever being so low before, and it was supposed here that an extraordinary gale was blowing in the Gulf, but as far as I can find out the gale that was blowing on Sunday and Monday was nothing out of the common. Yesterday there were twenty-one vessels on both sides of the bar, either waiting to come in or go out. I am fully persuaded that it is not the river that wants deepening, but the Bar itself, and this could easily be done."

THE crash with which old Noah's junk struck the highest pinnacles of Mount Ararat was but a trifle compared to what has brought friend Belyjoss and his illustrious party to an anchor on Saturday night (16th inst.), when sailing on the placid bosom of the Pearl River en route to the famous City of Rams, but anyhow—

There they lay all that night.

Christially fainted in a pious plight.

But as old "Sol" asserted himself on the following morning it was ascertained that the barge was hard and fast on the bar, so prayers were at once offered up for the safe deliverance of the valuable cargo, and "Old Nick" having many other things in the fire was more easily propitiated than would have been the case under ordinary circumstances, and was induced to forbear casting his net. Rumour hath it, however, that a most anxious time was passed, and when at last the *Knightfisher* was once more got under weigh, sacrifices were offered up, and the party eventually reached Canton none the worse for its unwanted exertions in the praying line. Sky pilots now are like the majority of local stocks—at a considerable discount.

THE Water Flend writes to say that, after the slight showers of the past few days, a water famine this summer is a most remote contingency. Thanks!

At the Magistracy on the 20th inst. Mr. Wise resumed the inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Kwok Chuan, a boy who died from the effects of injuries received by the fall of a verandah in Station Street, Yau-ma-tei, on the 30th ult. Mr. Sample, Inspector of Buildings, said he had visited the premises. He was of opinion that the verandah had fallen in consequence of the foundations having sunk. The work appeared to be of the usual kind. He suggested that the people who tenanted such premises should not be allowed to store goods on the verandahs, nor yet use them as dwelling places. Mr. Wise returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

WRITING on May 10th, a correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says:—"On the 6th inst. Mr. Carles embarked on the *Changon* on his homeward voyage, and Mr. E. L. Allen took charge of the British Consulate. All the foreign residents turned out to wish Mr. Carles a *bon voyage*. A serious outrage was contemplated at Yanchow some ten days ago on the Jesuit Mission there appears to be no doubt, but the would-be doers were promptly 'shot upon' by the Chinese authorities, with the help of a large contingent of soldiers. The cause, as usual, is the dissemination of reports of the alleged ill-treatment of children at the Orphanage, and it was even reported that one of them had been boiled in a bath! What an interesting people these Chinese are!

THERE was a sound of revelry at the City Club last night (21st inst.) when the festive members of that popular resort met there to wrestle with music and refreshments. The entertainment took the form of a smoking concert, and as a varied and liberal programme was provided a very enjoyable evening was spent. Some very good songs were contributed by Messrs. MacDonald, Boards, Wilson, Williamson and Robinson, and a recitation of the "Stage Struck Hero" in character, by Mr. H. C. Manning, was excellently delivered. Mr. A. H. Mancel kept order, and Messrs. Robinson, Skeels and Grimbé pounded the piano, and added in a great degree to the success of the concert. During the evening Mr. W. D. Sutton presented a pretty silver cup to Mr. W. Hay, the victor in a recent bowling competition.

We have received information from Tientsin, says the *Shanghai Mercury* of the 16th inst., that about 1,000,000 have been arrested by His Ex. C. Hong-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to be used for the purpose of extending and encouraging the cotton mill industries. It is guaranteed by the Viceroy and the Imperial Government. The Tientsin correspondent of the paper, writing on the 15th inst., says:—"Mr. Ma Kie-chang and Mr. Wu Tiao-ching left here this morning in the Viceroy's steam launch, to join the *Hsinshing* at Tientsin, in which they proceeded to Shanghai. Mr. Wu Tiao-ching is the comptroller of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. There are various reasons given why these two gentlemen are travelling together, but no doubt you will know better than I do about the matter, so I will not give the different rumours."

We hear, says the *Japan Daily Herald*, that a circular has been issued to the several offices of the *Nippon Kaisha*, intimating that the agents of the Company are to be Japanese instead of foreigners, the present Agents being lowered to the second position, as a preliminary. It is to be presumed, to their services being ultimately dispensed with altogether, as soon as it may be deemed safe to do so. Also, that the signatures to bills of lading will be those of Japanese officers. With respect to the last proposed alteration, it is open we believe to question, as to whether under Japanese law, Japanese signatures will suffice, since to make Japanese documents binding, seals rather than signatures are essential. It is possible that foreign banks may entertain objections to the acceptance of bills of lading with Japanese signatures only, for apart from anything else, it will be next to impossible to challenge and detect forgeries, should such be attempted.

A MEETING of the Sanitary Board was held on the 22nd inst., when several members were present. Letters were laid on the table—from the Government approving the site selected for the Vaccine Institute; and from the local branch of the British Medical Association calling attention to the difficulty and serious question of exhuming the remains of Chinese dead, which should be allowed to lie buried at least 15 or 20 years, and in cases of cholera, small pox, etc., should not be disturbed at all, which course would soon present serious aspect as to suggest the consideration of some other method of disposal in place of burying on this island. A Committee was appointed to consider the question, consisting of the Vice-President, the Colonial Surgeon, and Dr. Ho Kai. On the 20th inst. Mr. Francis and Dr. Ca. drew attention to the admission of small pox cases to the Tung Wa Hospital. In reply to 15 petitions for laundry accommodation it was decided to inform the petitioners as follows, that the apartments would be noted; there were only ten laundries. It was decided to recommend to the Government that a latrine be erected near the tramway station at the Peak. A number of houses in Queen's Road and Praya East were reported to be very badly drained; and the Committee's report on the site for a new western market, recommending that the market be as near as possible to the present one, was adopted.

THE Chinkiang correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury*, under date 14th May, writes:—"The bodies of two nuns, lately inmates of a monastery situated in one of the suburbs of the city, were cremated this morning in an open space near a village called Tu Tien Miao, about three miles from Chinkiang. A large concourse of Buddhist priests, in their official robes, and nuns, had assembled at a very early hour to commence the ceremony under a tent which had been erected for their accommodation. The bodies were placed in two separate wooden casks, about seven feet high and five feet in circumference, each corpse being tightly packed inside with charcoal, and placed in a slanting posture upon several layers of charcoal, with a small open space left underneath. The casks containing the bodies were placed over two ten-pieces, which contained charcoal and sacred wood chips, which would ignite the charcoal placed at the lower part of the cask containing the bodies. The ceremony commenced by a great clashing of gongs and cymbals. The priests kept up an incessant chanting, the refrain being taken up by the nuns assembled. At a given signal made by one of the officiating priests, fire was applied to the trenches, which at once communicated it to the charcoal in the cask. The whole ceremony was completed in less than three hours, when the bodies were thoroughly incinerated. The ashes will be gathered up and placed in urns, and be deposited in the monastery to which the deceased nuns were attached. I am informed that earthenware jars with moveable covers are used for cremating Buddhist priests, and wooden casks as above described for nuns, and the amount of charcoal sufficient to cremate one body is about five piculs."

THE *Pingang Gazette* states that on the 4th inst., as an armed patrol, consisting of twenty-one Dutch soldiers, was marching from the fort at Edie to the Kwai, a distance of only some hundred yards, a single Achinese boldly attacked one of the men, whom he cut down and killed. The suddenness of the attack seems to have dismayed the soldiers, but it was for a moment only, for the next second twenty bullets penetrated the body of the bold Achinese, the soldier's death being thus speedily avenged. It is also reported that at present it is not safe to land at Edie, still less to go up the river, as the place seems to be full of hostile Achinese.

SEVERAL correspondents having sought our valuable opinion as to the effect of the recent thunderstorms on the electric lighting in Hongkong, a *Telegraph* representative called on Mr. Wickham, the manager of the Electric Lighting Co., on the 23rd inst. Mr. Wickham said that the meteorological conditions here were so different from those at home that they had to experiment a good deal at first, and learn by practical experience how to prevent the lightning from affecting the lamps. Their arrangements had been quite successful except in one or two recent cases, when an unusually strong flash from the clouds would leap across the lightning resistor, and draw the current from the dynamos after it, so putting the lamps out, but only for a few minutes. Even that, he expected, would be obviated now. With respect to the occasional variation in the brilliancy of light from the street lamps Mr. Wickham explained that each lamp was fitted with two carbon pencils, the ends of which were about one-eighth of an inch apart. The electric glow was emitted from these points, which burnt away at the rate of a little over an inch per hour. Sometimes a mushroom-shaped cap formed on the top of the lower pencil, through the somewhat complicated mechanism not working with the usual exactitude, and the light got choked. The deposit usually burnt away in a few moments, however, leaving the light as bright as before. The lamps, he added, were cleaned and refitted with carbons daily. Eleven more thousand lamps had been ordered by the Government for the western district, bringing the total number up to 75. Several leading firms had ordered their offices to be fitted up throughout with the light, and a prominent Chinese comptroller had also given it a trial in his private house, which example, in all probability, other wealthy natives would follow. Kowloon could not be supplied from this side, owing to the difficulty of permanently insulating the cable across the Harbour, but constant work was being done at the Peak was quite feasible. Since the Club had been lighted all customers could keep their lamps going day and night.

THE *Canton Times* thinks Hongkong must be getting blasé when it makes up parties to see wholesale executions and bids for the sword with which the heads of sixteen Moagollans were severed from their respective shoulders. *Blasé* doesn't half express it—we are glutted with gore. By the way, Mr. Griffith, of Ice-house Lane, is busy developing (between thunder-storms) a unique series of photographs of the last executions, which will be ready in a few days. One picture shows the man kneeling in line with a soldier, with a slightly anxious air in the direction of the Lord High Executioner; another depicts Lal A Tat, the pirate chief, "before using and after using;" and so on. The most interesting scenes, though, are a couple, in the first of which the headman is lifting his sword over an outstretched neck, whilst in the second he has just made the fatal stroke, the head not having yet reached the ground, and blood gushing from the severed trunk. Fun also improved the shining hour, and secured a couple of very fair negatives whilst the men were sitting (or kneeling) to "have their heads taken." Copies are to be obtained at Brewer's. A gentleman who is in a position to know tells us that the Chinese authorities, seeing what interest the horror-loving Westerners took in these little fatalities, had the last batch rigged out in new clothes for the occasion. There was no objection made to the scene being photographed—indeed the mandarin in charge had the men arranged with a view to the cameras being in the best position. The amiable executioner followed the official lead, and gave all the assistance he could. For instance he pointed out Lal A Tat as that party to put on airs, and begin to brag about the hundred heads he had had for the one they would get, and so on, until his loquacity was interrupted at the neck. He is a central figure in almost all the photographs, the parties who were on the spot with their cameras paying particular attention to him. One photographer planted his apparatus only eight feet from the culprits as they knelt, and got bespattered with blood. The undertaker, adds the *Mine* of Information, got five cents a head—or body, that is to say, and the corpses' clothes and fetters. The execution-ground graveyard being full, the latest victims had to be interred elsewhere, which made the speculation a failure at the price. As for the Golgotha itself, the Customs "barred" the way, refuse to keep watch there, and three huns have been sent to guard the place where the ghosts. Kuhn & Co. have secured the sword which raised the "sombre, spectral shapes," and are now negotiating for a goblin lamp and a fine low-comedy bogey.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 22nd inst. There were present:—H. E. Major-General Digby Barker, Administrator of the Government, Mr. W. M. Deane, Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. C. Gordon (Attorney-General), Mr. N. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General), Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General), Messrs P. Ryrie, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J. Kewick, (unofficial members), and Mr. A. M. Thompson, Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

A number of votes recommended by H.E. the Governor were referred to the Finance Committee.

THE BROKERS' ABOLITION ORDINANCE. Mr. Whitehead—I lie to say on the table a petition addressed to your Excellency and this hon. Council, from the Stock and Share Brokers Association, asking for the postponement of the second reading of the Bill to amend the law in respect to the sale of stock. I can only say that the petition is respectfully worded, and I would ask that it may be read.

The Clerk read the petition, which was as follows:—

HONGKONG, May 22nd.

Your petitioners are those brokers doing business in Hongkong.

A very extensive business is done for many years past has been carried on in Hongkong in the stock and shares of local and other Companies, both for cash and on time, and in the whole or the greater part of the dealings and transactions in these shares on time, it has not been possible or convenient

to designate in writing by number or otherwise the precise shares or stock in respect of which contracts have been made.

The Bill now before the Honorable Council, intitled "An Ordinance to amend the law in respect of sales of shares in Companies registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1865 to 1885, and in other joint-stock Companies," will, if passed into law in its present form, render null and void all contracts and agreements for the sale of stock or shares not precisely designated in writing, by number or otherwise, and will put an end to a very extensive and very valuable branch of the business done in the local share market.

Your petitioners, as share brokers and dealers, will suffer very considerably by the contraction in the volume of share business that will follow the passing of the Bill in question, and they are desirous of being heard at the table of this hon. Council in support of their interests so seriously threatened by the Bill.

Your petitioners have been taken by surprise by the setting down of the Bill for second reading at so short a notice. They and the public generally were under the impression that the Bill read a first time in July last had been abandoned, and they have not had time to prepare petitions and memorials against the Bill or to instruct counsel to oppose it.

They therefore most humbly pray.

1. That the second reading of the said Bill may be postponed for at least a month to enable them to take steps to memorialize the Government and this hon. Council against the Bill.

2. That when the Bill comes before this hon. Council for the second reading they may be heard by their counsel against the Bill.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

For the Stock-brokers Association of Hongkong.

J. Y. V. VERNON, Chairman.
WILLIAM LEGG, R. A. GUBNEY, E. H. JOSEPH, C. C. COHEN, A. LIND, L. MENDEL, W. H. YOUNG, E. JONES HUGHES, Sub-committee.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Mr. Ryrie—I beg to hand in a protest on behalf of some of the Unofficial Members; it speaks for itself, it is against the prepayment of the £20,000 of the Military Contribution.

The document which was laid on the table, was to the following effect:—

Whereas at a meeting of this Honorable Council held on the 26th day of March, 1890 past, a vote was taken for the payment out of the Colonial Treasury to the Military Chest of a sum of twenty thousand pounds sterling (£20,000) or its equivalent in dollars, as additional Military Contribution for and in respect of the year 1890;

And whereas no portion of the monies so voted was disbursed during the year ending the 31st December last;

And whereas for the payment out of such monies or any portion thereof after the said 31st day of December a vote or revote by this Council was requisite and His Excellency the Governor had no authority except perhaps in a case of extreme necessity to issue his Warrant for, or in any way authorize, such payment without such revote;

And whereas at the meeting of Council held on the 30th day of April last His Excellency the Governor, Sir George William de Vaux, in his place in Council, stated in reply to a question that he had on the 21st February last on his own responsibility and without the authority of this Council, by his Warrant directed payment out of the Colonial Treasury of this said sum of twenty thousand pounds sterling, additional Military Contribution in respect of the year 1890; and whereas it has not been shown to this Council that any adequate or any urgent necessity existed for the payment of the said monies at that time, without the authority of this Council, and no sufficient reason has been assigned or explanation given for not calling together this Council and obtaining a revote of the money.

Now therefore we the undersigned Unofficial Members of Council in our places in Council, as the representatives of the public interest and as the lawfully constituted guardians of the public purse, and for the preservation of the rights of this Honorable Council, solemnly protest against the action of His Excellency the Governor in issuing his warrant, without the authority of this Council, for the payment of the said sum of twenty thousand pounds sterling, additional Military Contribution, and against the payment of the said monies.

We have further most earnestly to protest against the action of His Excellency the Governor in concealing from this Council until its meeting on the 30th April last, and until a question had been put on the subject, the fact that this money had been paid, on his authority, on the 21st of February last, in laying on the Council Table, on the 25th February last, a Minute recommending the revote by the Council of this additional Military Contribution for 1890, at the Minute being silent as to the payment of the money; in permitting this Council to discuss, in Finance Committee on the 25th February, and in full Council on the 26th and 27th March in his own presence, the question whether this money should or should not be revoted, the Council being deliberately left in ignorance of the fact that the money had already, on the 21st February, been paid out of the Colonial Treasury and that it was beyond recall.

We pray that this our Protest may be recorded on the Minutes of this Council and may be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Legislative Council Chamber.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1891.

(Signed) P. RYRIE.

" Ho Kai.

" T. H. WHITEHEAD.

MORE QUESTIONS.

Mr. Whitehead—I beg to give notice of several questions that I propose to ask at the next meeting of Council:—

With reference to the explanation given by His Excellency Sir G. W. de Vaux at the Council meeting held on 30th April last in connection with the payment of the arrears of the Military Contribution for 1890 without the sanction of the Council, will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the telegram or telegrams from the Secretary of State on the authority of which the money was paid.

Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the Despatches, referred to in the Acting Colonial Secretary's letter of 13th inst. to the Hon. P. Ryrie, received from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies conveying his Lordship's views and instructions on regard to the increased salaries voted in the 1891 Estimates and state the date on which the same were received, also a copy of Governor Sir G. W. de Vaux's telegram dated 24th ult. to the Secretary of State referred to in the said letter, together with a copy of the telegram received from the Secretary of State in reply.

Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the Despatch dated 2nd September last of His Excellency the Officer then Administering the Government to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the proposed Share Sale Regulation Bill and a copy of the Secretary of State's Despatch in reply.

NEW ORDINANCES.

On the motion of the Attorney-General seconded by the Colonial Treasurer, the Council agreed to the following:—

First reading of a Bill to give the same validity to Ordinances 18 and 19 of 1884 as if they had been proclaimed to come into force on September 23rd, 1884. These are private Ordinances authorizing certain wharf enterprises, but by some oversight no proclamation was made at the time when they were understood to come into force, and it is now sought to cover that error.

First reading of a Bill entitled the Forts Protection Ordinance, prohibiting the admission into the forts in this Colony of any person not having an order, nor being a soldier.

First reading of a Bill to provide against abuses connected with the erection of public latrines, necessitating the written sanction of the Sanitary Board.

First reading of a Bill to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, two sections being altered.

Second reading of the Bill to provide for the making of a table of fees to be taken in connection with the grant of letters patent in this Colony.

The Attorney-General said that in England and in all the Colonies with which he was acquainted, where letters patent are granted for protecting patents, it was usual to have a fixed scale of fees, which went into the Treasury. When he came to look into the system here he found that there was no explicit provision for the payment of such fees into the Treasury. It seemed to him that that was a right and proper source of revenue, and it must have been by accident that this was omitted. He therefore begged to move the second reading of this Bill, by which the Governor in Council might make a table of fees, which must be published in the *Gazette*. He presumed there would be no objection to this Bill.

On the bill being read a second time

The Attorney-General moved and the Colonial Treasurer seconded, that the Standing Orders be suspended in order that the Council might resolve itself into committee.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill.

The Attorney-General explained that with regard to the last part of the first clause, dealing with fees for the extension of grant of letters patent, it sometimes happened that after the patent had been granted the persons holding it applied for an extension of time, and it was usual to charge a fee for such extension of grant.

Mr. Whitehead asked if it was intended to charge higher fees than at present.

The Attorney-General replied that apparently there was not at present any fee authorized. He wished merely to put the matter on a more satisfactory basis than at present. He believed it originated in this way:—the granting of letters patent was of course optional for the Government, and the Government could make such grants conditional on the payment of certain fees. In that way a charge of \$25 had arisen, but it seemed to him more satisfactory in every way that some specific sanction be given, and a table of fees be drawn up. A great deal of work was involved in the granting of patents, and it was only fair that the applicants should pay in proportion—certainly more than \$25.

The Colonial Secretary said that it is his time and his predecessor's the Attorney-General was not allowed any fees, as he had no private practice, and therefore this extra \$25 fee was saved to the patentees. He thought the Government justified in re-imposing that as well as the original \$25 charge.

Mr. Whitehead said that his only object in asking the question was for information, and he thought the information given was quite satisfactory.

Mr. Ryrie asked whether it was proposed to make a large increase in the fees.

The Attorney-General said that formerly there was a fee of \$25 to the Attorney-General and a charge of \$25 for the patent, but on looking into the matter he could see no specific authority for that. At that time the Attorney-General had private practice. Now, of course, it did not make any difference to the Attorney-General, but that was no reason why the Government should not get their \$25. As to the exact amount of the fee he could not make any proposal, yet, but thought, it should be more than \$25. This was considerably less than in England.

The Bill was then considered in Committee.

On the Council resuming

Mr. Kewick said:—Your Excellency, I had been my intention to-day to move the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the law with respect to the sale of shares registered under the Companies Act, 1865 to 1886, and of other joint stock companies." But in consequence of representations made to me yesterday morning, I have decided to ask that with the consent of the Council the second reading be postponed. I am aware that number of gentlemen in this Colony who are interested in this matter are exceedingly anxious to be heard on this subject. A memorial has been drawn up expressing the views of these gentlemen, and therefore I ask the Council to postpone the second reading until such date as may be afterwards appointed.

The second reading was accordingly postponed.

This concluded the business of the Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding, and the following votes were passed:—

Peak Water Supply, \$10,980; the materials did not arrive until this year, so that last year's vote was not used, and was now re-voted.

Police Launch repairs, \$1,120; owing to the collision a few months ago with the *Dock Co's* launch, of which the arbitrators decided was the fault of the police boat, the launch was in charge of a qualified man, but he was discharged.

Chinese teachers for two Student Interpreters and a nurse at the Civil Hospital, \$460.

Half salary to head mistress of girls' school during voyage out, \$60.35.

Two hundred brass padlocks (Chubb's) for Victoria Gaol, \$200; a vote.

Repairs to Harbour Department steam launch, \$1,100; repairs to *Lido* had exhausted the previous vote; both boats had been at sea seven years.

Readjustment of salary of two inspectors in Registrar-General's department, \$80; in accordance with direction of Secretary of State, by which no deduction is to be made for pensions; the pension list being accordingly decreased.

Compassionate allowance to widow and daughters of late Mr. Ribeiro, \$20.

This concluded the business of the Finance Committee.

THE EXPLOSION ON A STEAM-LAUNCH.

MAJESTY INQUIRY.

At the Magistracy on the 22nd inst., Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the boiler explosion which occurred on board the steam-launch *Wingwing*, on the 7th instant, resulting in causing the deaths of Leung Aye, engineer, and Lam Yin, a fireman. The jurors were Messrs. A. C. da Silva, E. C. Ray and A. H. Skelton.

Pok Mun, captain of the launch, said that on the 7th inst., about 5.30 a.m., it was alongside Gibb's wharf, when he received orders to go over to Yau-ma-tei to tow some boats to this side of the harbour. The launch was a tow-boat, and did not carry passengers. She had a crew of six men, including himself. They were all blown up, the engineer and the stoker being killed. When witness received his orders to go to Yau-ma-tei he rang the bell as a signal for the engine to start. The engineer had been told about 5 a.m. that they were going to Yau-ma-tei. The engines were started about 5.30 a.m., when the boiler burst and witness was thrown into the water. He did not know whether the fire had been burning all night. He was the steersman. He had passed an examination at the Harbour Office for competency about eight years ago, but did not possess any certificate. He had been a steersman all the time. He had given his licence to the steersman on board the *Wing Kwei* for a few days. He formerly steered that launch, and was only a substitute steersman of the *Wingwing*. When he was blown into the water he managed to catch hold of a rope and so saved himself. A coal-boat was alongside the launch, which was end-on to the wharf. He was slightly hurt on the hand and at the back of the right ear. The launch was formerly called the *Kidney*. He had been on board the launch about twenty days.

THE "TAI-ON" CASE.

CASE DISMISSED.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MURPHY.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)

May 20th.

THE AFFRAY AT COSMOPOLITAN DOCK.

Toh Sin, comrade of the Cosmopolitan Dock, was indicted first with feloniously attacking Yu Shan with intent and secondly with causing bodily hurt, on the 4th March. The following jurors were empanelled:—P. G. Kribbe, H. J. Milnes, de Figueiredo, R. T. Wright, H. W. B. Ebbens, E. A. Rand, J. Wilkie, and E. Maricelo. The Attorney-General (Mr. W. M. Goodman) prosecuted, and Mr. Francis, Q.C., defended.

The Attorney-General rehearsed the facts of the case, to the effect that the defendant, Toh Sin, was indicted first with feloniously attacking Yu Shan with intent and secondly with causing bodily hurt, on the 4th March. The following jurors were empanelled:—P. G. Kribbe, H. J. Milnes, de Figueiredo, R. T. Wright, H. W. B. Ebbens, E. A. Rand, J. Wilkie, and E. Maricelo. The Attorney-General (Mr. W. M. Goodman) prosecuted, and Mr. Francis, Q.C., defended.

The evidence of Yu Shan and Leong Fat went to show that prisoner had set up a gambling place. The man who could not pay the four cents left his coat as security, and next day took the money and asked for his coat. The man in the comrade's house, who was engine fitter, assaulted him, and this led to a general fight between the fitters and the boiler-makers. Yu Shan saw prisoner attacking a man, and at once called out to his friends. Toh Sin then cut down Yu Shan, and some fifty or sixty on each side took part in the fight.

The Sikh watchman stated that he did not see any blow struck, as immediately the disturbance began he ran away, and did not return until all was quiet.

Mr. Henry Smith, superintendent at the Dock, said that defendant had been eight years in the Company's service, and was always very quiet and well behaved.

Mr. Francis addressed the jury, urging the insufficiency of the evidence against the prisoner. A fight took place among scores of coolies, and the prisoner was charged as the responsible man, although there was no clear evidence against him. And even if it was he who did use violence, it was necessary to keep order, in the absence of police or European authority. It was evident that a large crowd of men went to the spot armed, intending to fight, and the prisoner was in serious danger.

The Attorney-General replied briefly. The gambling house established by prisoner was the fons et origo of the whole quarrel, which ended fatally. There was no evidence that the comrade was attacked or compelled to defend himself with the sword; the men whom he cut were themselves unarmed.

The Chief Justice, in summing up, reviewed the evidence in detail, pointing out that no man had a right, when taking arms in self defence, to pursue his assailants and cut them down as they ran away. There was not much doubt that the comrade did this, and the excuses put forward for him were not a defence. That was the only material point for the jury to decide.

The jury acquitted the prisoner on the first count, and found him guilty on the second by a majority of six to one, adding a recommendation to mercy. There was no ground that he received great provocation.

(Before Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Puisne Judge.)

May 21st.

THE CHAIN-GANG ESCAPE CASE.

Shing A Ping was charged with (1) wounding Jandu, a centry, at Lap-sap-wan on June 15, 1887 with intent to prevent his detention; (2) causing hurt to Jandu; (3) escaping from legal custody. He pleaded guilty to the first charge and not guilty to the first and second charges. The following jurors were empanelled:—Messrs. J. Lowrie, W. R. Neill, P. Jordan, A. Wilson, J. B. Gomes, J. Humby, and A. W. Millar.

The Attorney-General said that the first charge was the most serious one. Prisoner had been sentenced to five years penal servitude in January 1887 for being in possession of goods stolen by pirates. Before he had served 17 months of his sentence he escaped, with ten other convicts. On June 15, 1888, a chain gang was at work in Kennedy Town. There must have been outside confederates and a preconcerted plan, for a sampan was lying ready. About eleven o'clock in the morning one of the gang tossed his basket of earth up in the air, so that some of the dog got into the eyes of the guard, Jandu. While he was thus half blinded the whole gang rushed upon him, beat him severely on the head with bamboos, got him down on the ground, and forced him to let go his carbine, by striking his arms with the butt of the rifle. They then escaped in the boat, with their accomplices, and only three had been since caught. Prisoner was the man who struck the guard with a bamboo.

The evidence of F. J. Horne, W. Foulkes, and Jandu, who all saw the affair and identified the prisoner, proved the charge of assault.

The jury found the prisoner guilty on all three charges. Sentence was deferred until Saturday.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)

May 23rd.

DISTRIBUTION OF HONOURS.

Five prisoners convicted at the May Sessions were brought up this morning to receive the reward of their exploits.

The Shal Wan pirates, Tan A Lai and Wang Sam, on being informed that they had been convicted by a majority of five to two, protested that the charge was a shameful fabrication by malicious traduce, got up to affect the mind of honest and worthy citizens. His Lordship said it was proved conclusively that they had committed a very bold piracy, attacking a vessel in the harbour, within sight of the shore, less than two yards from the Colony a vessel was held for two days, and it very luckily happened that no actual violence was used. All the moveable property was carried away, and disposed of, and apparently the object in keeping the ship so long was to get clear away with the goods and money before an alarm was raised. Piracies of this kind must be put down with a strong hand. The sentence was five years penal servitude each.

THE COSMOPOLITAN DOCK AFFRAY.

To Sin, the comrade of the Cosmopolitan Dock, was next in the procession. His Lordship said he was very sorry to see a man of such standing and good character get himself into this position. The jury found him guilty of unlawfully and maliciously wounding, but not of the more serious crime of feloniously wounding with intent; and they added a rider recommending the prisoner to mercy on account of the great provocation he had received. This the Chief Justice fully endorsed. A band of engineers and fitters came over in consequence of some previous dispute, intent on mischief, and he was inclined to think prisoners took arms only after seeing his friend Yu Shan mortally stabbed. Then he lost his head

completely, and slashed and cut at everybody in his way. He seemed to be ordinarily a quiet and peaceable man, but he must know that it was wrong to take up arms and run after his assailants. The case would be met by a sentence of six months' hard labour.

(Before Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Puisne Judge.)

Chang Tye, convicted of robbery from the person with violence, and bearing arms, made a touching appeal for mercy. The Judge gently broke it to him that he was liable to a life sentence. He would, however, respond to prisoner's appeal by deposing him from the island, after having served his gracious Majesty diligently for a year, and sampled corporal punishment in two doses of 25 strokes each.

THE CHAIN GANG ESCAPE.

Shing A Ping repeated his confession of having escaped from the Chain-gang at Kennedy Town. The Judge hardened his heart, and sent him back to complete his original engagement at shot-firing, then to continue it for a further three years for nearly murdering the guard; and finally, for the escape one year, concurrently. The Court then adjourned.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

(Before Chief Justice Sir J. Russell.)

May 26th.

Tan Kim Hoon came up for his final examination. Mr. Walton appearing for him, and Mr. Geddes for the chief creditor. Liabilities were stated at \$7,956.60 and assets at present nil, but bankrupt was entitled to a share in certain property which was heavily mortgaged. One claim only had been proved, that of A. Tack, on a promissory note for \$500, which was stated as the cause of the bankruptcy, the debtor being held liable for debts contracted by his co-executor, Liu Lum. Liu Lum conducted the business of Achue, furniture dealer, Queen's Road, on behalf of the widow. He seemed to have borrowed extensively. Attack was a trade rival. The co-executors only discovered how Liu Lum was acting when it was too late. He then left the Colony, and the assets were recovered for his debts against his co-executors.

Mr. Geddes said the executors had always passed as owners of the shop and it was only when judgment had been obtained against them that one absconded and the others went bankrupt and declared themselves to be only executors.

After a few questions the bankrupt was ordered to come up again on May 5.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Puisne Judge.)

May 27th.

HANCOCK & SHAMKIN HOTEL.

This was an action to recover fees and charges as architect to the Shamkin Hotel Co., Limited, and there was a cross suit for money advanced. Mr. Robinson, instructed by Mr. B. Roddy, appeared for the Company, and Mr. Reece for Mr. W. S. J. Hancock.

Mr. Reece said that it would be for him to commence, though defending in the first suit, because the plaintiffs (defendants in the second case) gave credit for \$100 claimed, and in the second they gave credit for \$380. Hancock's suit was for \$341.15, balance due from defendants for rent of office and other matters stated in the particulars, showing how the various amounts were calculated. Mr. Hancock was engaged as architect to the Company in 1889, and did certain work—first, preparing plans for a hotel building on lot 24 (Ice House Lot) Shamkin, and making reports and estimates for the building, which was to cost \$15,000, but the proposal fell through. Then the second set of work was to prepare plans for altering the Concordia Hall, which did ultimately become the Shamkin Hotel. Thirdly, it was proposed that an annex be built to the Concordia Hall, and he prepared plans for that. On the first item he charged only \$150, or one per cent. of the proposed cost. The item was first put at \$310, but Mr. Hancock himself reduced it by \$100, as the plan fell through and he was to do other work for the Company; then at their request he further reduced it by \$60, thus making it \$150 only, or \$40 for the whole. That amount was practically admitted by the defendants. On the day before it a account was last sent in he had an interview with Mr. Fraser-Smith, who told him that the directors would pass the accounts subject to that reduction, which he accordingly made. No objection was taken to this, and \$400 had been paid on account, according to Mr. Barretto, leaving \$300 due. That established the principle on which the claim was made, for Mr. Barretto made certain red ink notes showing that he understood \$400 to have been paid, though actually only \$200 had then been paid. But no objection was taken to some of the items. A charge of \$50 for each visit to Shamkin occurred in the account, and also in the other two, so that if this first bill of \$400 was proved, the \$50 charge would stand in the other bills. Another point raised was as to rent for office in the second set of accounts. Mr. Barretto said he was under the impression that no rent was to be charged; but plaintiff denied having ever agreed to this.

Mr. Robinson, in reply to his Lordship, denied that the first set of accounts was admitted.

William S. John Hancock told the work he had done and the arrangements made with defendants, showing how the various items in the accounts were made out.

In cross-examination witness admitted that he had received \$380 as payment for certain fittings which he was to order from him, but, as the money was received to be paid to him, he did not order, and kept the money in hand. He did not return the money to the Company, nor inform them until some months later of the fittings not having been ordered. When he sent in his account it was put down at \$400, and he did not deduct the \$380. He never definitely set off the \$380 against his claim, until 15th March 1891. The last account sent in before that date was 16th November 1889. At that time he knew the fittings were not to be ordered, but had not made up his mind to set off the \$380 against the \$400. He only wished then to send in accounts up to 30th September. It would have simplified matters to put in the \$380. His Lordship—You ought to have returned it at once, or you ought to have deducted it from the account. Instead of that you did not return the money, but you wrote saying "Please send cheque for \$400."

After a few further questions by the Court, the case for the plaintiff was concluded.

Mr. Robinson, in opening the case for the Company, submitted that the appropriation for the fittings of the \$380 that the directors gave to Mr. Hancock to get certain things from England could not be upheld. It was a simple matter of account, the question being whether or not Mr. Hancock had been indemnified for the work he did, but he had stuck to \$380, which was obviously more than he was entitled to. He claimed \$1200 in respect to a contract, the practical part of which was only some \$350—20 per cent. of the contract price. He had got 75 per cent. without the directors' consent, and it was for his Lordship to say whether or not that was excessive. Expert evidence would be given, showing that his charges were exorbitant, and Mr. Fraser-Smith would detail the circumstances under which charges for rent were made.

Mr. Fraser-Smith was then called, and said:—I am chairman of the board of directors of the Shamkin Hotel Company. Mr. Hancock went to Canton in July 1889, with myself and Mr. Pitman, to make an inspection of the site which the Company had purchased to build a hotel on. Mr. Denison had previously prepared a plan, but Mr. Hancock was engaged because the board doubted the suitability of the place for the purpose. We inspected the site, and Mr. Hancock unhesitatingly pronounced it unfit. Mr. Pitman suggested that we should visit the Concordia Hall, which Mr. Hancock strongly advised the purchase of. On his report I entered into negotiations with Messrs. Chater and Mody, the owners, and eventually we purchased the place for \$20,000. Mr. Hancock was retained as architect to supervise the alteration of the building, and supplied plans. He had given us none in connection with the Ice-house lot. The board refused to pay the charge for such plans, and Mr. Hancock said he was entitled to make the charge for advice. I offered to recommend the board to pay him \$150 for the purchase of the site, with a quitclaim, and he accepted it. He agreed to that, and in November 1889 sent in an account for \$400 in pursuance of our arrangement. No plans for the building were supplied, and none were included in the bill. It was not understood that Mr. Hancock should charge for his visits to Canton whilst retained as architect to the Company. His visits on other occasions were principally made in connection with a scheme for a Bund, then being promoted by the Viceroy. With reference to a charge of \$160 for rent, Mr. Hancock suggested that the clerical work of the Company should be done in his office, for his own convenience. It had previously been done in my premises, without any charge.

Cross-examined—The plans produced were never made for the Company, but must have been for the purposes of this suit. Witness had not consented to the whole of the charges, but to one charge of \$50 for a special visit. As to one of the plans, witness had been supplied to the Company, witness was quite certain there was no such plan among the records of the Company although there was no reply to his letter saying he enclosed such a plan. Plaintiff was not entitled to charge for that. As to the "rent of office" charge, the only office was Mr. Hancock's drawing office, where one desk was used for the Marina and the Hotel Co.; \$20 a month was an excessive charge for a desk. If Mr. Barretto had said it was a fair charge witness would have opposed it, as the office was usually made to cover the rent of the building. Usually it was 50c on new buildings, and 75c on old ones. For visits to Canton witness had only bare expenses, but no special fee. Mr. Robinson explained that he wished to show that "as an architect he was not entitled to charge for every visit, whereas if he were a solicitor he might."

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

Seventy-two years ago that august lady Victoria, Queen of the great dominions of the United Kingdom, was born, and she was graciously commemorated yesterday (25th inst.) by her loyal subjects in Hongkong, the majority of the residents closing their establishments at 6 p.m., as usual, and the banks, insurance offices, Government departments, and other places of industry making it an excuse for a holiday, also as usual, the *Victor Emanuel*, *Impregnable*, and two gunboats dressed alike, a couple of other gunboats (and a fast and furious cutter also) emptied the signal-locker over the main-trunk. At mid-day a salute of twenty-one guns made the welkin ring, and so on. The chief event of the day, however, was the parade by our 400,000 military and auxiliary forces, in the afternoon. The Parade-ground and cricket-field were surrounded by a curious and freely-piercing crowd by five o'clock, when H. E. Major-General Digby Barker, as the Acting Governor, came through the gate, which in the under the ordonnance of Britain. A few minutes later the Royal Engineers, and Artillery arrived and occupied the upper end of the ground. After another brief interval the noble gait, headed by the band, put in an appearance, and a very imposing one at that. With the exception of a slight mishap to the drum-major's helmet, owing to his original method of welding the emblem of the regiment were safely steered into a position along one side of the ground, the flank at the Pavilion end being held by a score of our Artillery Volunteers, with four guns. In the centre of the ground were the four Maxim guns ordered by the Government nearly a couple of years ago, and the *tout ensemble* was further enhanced by the squadron of fiery untamed Mounted Volunteers which were to be organised in connection therewith. (These two last items were not visible to the naked eye, but the Colonial Secretary says we have got them, so it's all right.) After displaying *de jure*, which in the technical way of saying that the troops spread out, the officers saluted another ceremonial salute, and the Gun Lascars at the Cathedral end, one of the rifles also going off by spontaneous combustion; then, the *troupe de feu*, the big drummer flogged the features of his instrument in slow time to the strains of the National Anthem, during which performance the General and all the officers stood saluting the Invisible Presence, the troops held their smoking rifles at an angle of 45°, and several civilians, whose names we are in a position to publish, took off their hats. The final thump of the first four bars over, the Volunteers in their turn banged away blank cartridge very vigorously, and the second gun was on strike. The sponge had taken a fancy to the run, and declined to come out. Whistling had no effect on it. After a hurried corroborative, it was decided to pass on to No. 3 gun, and the whole seven rounds were got off, the band accompanying. The rattle of musketry was again followed by another spontaneous salute of the National Anthem. Consider it all done a third time, and we next see the regiment taking off its helmet like one man and rendering the air with well-simulated enthusiasm, so far as they could throw expression into "Hooray!" Under cover of the cheers a colour-sergeant, attended by two litted ladders, wandered off to a conspicuous position with the colours, which had up to then been waving over the centre of the line, and the two Savona walked the colours in short laps round about the flag. A few minutes later a company wheeled out and advanced until they were near enough to club the felonious sergeant, who seemed to have too much to carry, with rifle, dignity. The lieutenant stepped forward and made two cuts at him, took the colours away, and turned to the company, who expressed their admiration of his temerity in dumb show. Everybody went back to his place then, and the band struck up "To avenge the blood of the slain," or something to that effect. The soldiers in short laps round about the flag. A few minutes later a company wheeled out and advanced until they were near enough to club the felonious sergeant, who seemed to have too much to carry, with rifle, dignity. The lieutenant stepped forward and made two cuts at him, took the colours away, and turned to the company, who expressed their admiration of his temerity in dumb show. Everybody went back to his place then, and the band struck up "To avenge the blood of the slain," or something to that effect. The soldiers in short laps round about the flag. 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